THEGY CRITIC

Formerly THE NEWS LETTER of the College English Association

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April, 1952

SECEA Experiments

With Group Dynamics
The February 23 meeting of the SECEA (Fla. State Univ.), Tallahassee, brought together the critical insight of Dr. Harry Warfel, some serious thinking about literature as general education, and the warm hospitality of the FSU department.

With Group Dynamics

The yeer assisted by "resource men," who joined them for short periods.

When the general meeting began at 2:30, the correlated results of the small-group discussions were on the blackboard. The aims for literature as general education, and the warm hospitality of the FSU department. partment

Sarah Herndon, FSU, headed the program committee and was as-sisted by Edward Foster, Paul Haines, James Preu, William Randel, and Edgar Stanton. Local arrangements were managed by Dabney Adams, Olive Cross, Laura Jepsen, George Yost, with Mary Maginnis as chairman.

After luncheon, Dean Edwin R. Walker greeted SECEA genially, but included a word of thoughtful comment. "If a physicist, a biologist, a social scientist is to be appointed your control of the second appointed, you can get a reliable judgment of his qualifications. If you want a philosopher [Dean you want a philosopher [Dean Walker is a philosopher] or anyone in literature and the humanities, you can't get a judgment because of the confusion of purposes and standards in these fields." President Nathan C. Starr di-

cted the brief business meeting. Max Goldberg was in fine form as he presented the recent achievements and the plans of CEA. From President Ernest E. Leisy came wired greetings and a short power-ful statement. Later, small groups met to consider "The Florida State Humanities Plan" and "More about Linguistics."

Lift Up Our Eyes

The after-dinner affair, President Starr presiding, moved through music and the humorous greeting of FSU President Doak Campbell to its chief subject, Dr. Harry Warfel of the University of Florida on "What's Wrong with the Novel?" The charges against the contemporary American novel, he said, are dull plots, sameness of material, ugliness for the sake of ugliness, and lack of understanding of what the reader wants. The novel has inherited the place of the epic poem and must tell a good story of more than temporary significance; it must reflect the mind questing for answers to fundamental human problems. American life, Dr. Warfel believes, is much healthier, much more re-solute than the life pictured in the novel.

Sweaty Business
The sweaty business of the day
was a conference on Literature as
General Education, continuing the
subject of the 1951 Georgia Tech
meeting and bringing together all
of the 75 members attending. The
first session, 9:15 to 11 President
Starr spoke briefly of the situation of our sophomore courses in
literature; Paul Haines opened up
four areas which might be conidered; the group voted to discuss the student and the aims of
the course; Edward Foster out-

literature as general education should be first, knowledge and understanding for moral growth; second, skill in reading, in expression, in criticism; third, enjoyment and aesthetic experience. The rankings by the groups were reflected by a system of weights used in the summarizing step. The crude phrasing is unfair to the more closely worded state-ments of the group reports, but it does at least label three real and distinguishable aims.

distinguishable aims.

Knowledge & Understanding
Then nearly two hours of discussion. Did we wish to accept
"moral" growth as an aim? Calvin S. Brown objected to the popular understanding of that term
"moral." Nathan Starr suggested
"spiritual," and this term won majority support. The chairman remarked that the strongly religious denotation would seem to suggest marked that the strongly religious denotation would seem to suggest that every member of a depart-ment could be obliged to teach certain works which are appeal-ing as "understanding" only to the orthodox Christian. The group tried other alternatives; in quick straw-votes neither "values" nor "wisdom" won a majority. It was "wisdom" won a majority. It was decided to accept "knowledge and understanding" of the original statement, leaving the tricky ques-tion—of what?—and other diffi-cult related queries for later exploration.

Dulce et Utile

Prof. Reaver spoke of the need for considering the work of literature as a whole and the reading ature as a whole process. The group accepted this view by voting to consider "enjoyment," "underto consider "enjoyment," "under-standing," "skill" in this order as standing," "skill" in this order as outcomes of a single process. "Skill," as a major outcome, was eliminated. Thus the group was left with "enjoyment" and "understanding" as major aims, with a slight majority favoring "understanding" for heavier emphasis. Horace had said "dulce et utile," not too had for an oldtimer. not too bad for an oldtimer.

ower the Sights?

Prof. Herndon reported on group comments concerning the student. Little had been written on this painful subject, but there was one shattering suggestion that the basic course be planned to bring enjoyment and understanding to the "C" student. We were too tired "C" student. We were too tired to give that one the consideration which it deserves.

The meeting closed with decisions to send notes on the conference to members, to collect titles of "great teaching pieces," to obtain a show of opinion on the the course; Edward Foster out-the course; Edward Foster out-conference procedure. The cards lined plans for the second and third sessions. Then the general meeting disbanded, and the pre-arranged small groups went off porting at the close.

General Chairman: Robert T.
Fitzhugh (Brooklyn)
The 1952 CEA Institute will explore the problem "How may we strengthan the college curriculum in English, within the framework of liberal and general education, so as to give English majors more effective preparation for executive to the description of the control of the c effective preparation for execu-tive careers in business and indus-try?" Attention will be given not only to the needs of such exnot only to the needs of such ex-ceutives in the way of job compe-tence but also in the arts of hu-man relationships and civic re-sponsibility. Methods of systema-tic liaison between college Eng-lish departments and business ex-ceptives will be explored. ecutives will be explored.

Representatives of business and industry will join with university administrators and college English teachers in attempting to solve the central problem posed for the Institute. There will be general and workshop sessions. Ample approximate will be provided for

the central problem posed for the Institute. There will be general and workshop sessions. Ample opportunity will be provided for the valuable by-products resulting from informal, personal talk outside the sessions themselves.

This is the tentative schedule (members will be lodged at Hamlin House; meetings will be held at Skinner Hall): Registration, 10-11 a.m., Thursday, June 12,—11 a.m., Skinner Auditorium, General Session, followed by luncheon. 2-5 p.m., discussion groups in various rooms of Skinner Hall. 6:30 Banquet at the Lord Jeffery Inn. Friday, June 13. 9 a.m. second round of discussion group meetings. 11 a.m. third round of discussion group meetings. 12:30 cussion group meetings. 12:30 Luncheon. 2 p.m. Concluding Gen-eral Session. Institute to be con-

cluded by 5 p.m.

The Institute proceedings will be published and widely circulated.

The estimated cost of registration, board and room, for the two-

day Institute is \$20.00.

The Institute is not limited to members of the College English Association and its regional affiliates. All interested are cordially invited to attend as Institute mem-

Skill and Artistry in Planning

Skill and Artistry in Planning
Our members took away from
Tallahassee a consensus of judgment as to the aims of the general
course and also descriptions, collected in advance by Prof. Herndon, of fourteen specific courses
given in the region. At a later
meeting of officers, it was decided
to continue study of the general
program throughout the year.
Perhaps the problem is to close
the gap between broad aims and
the actual experience of the student as he reads the works which
we choose for him. we choose for him.

Are the leaders of SECEA striking toward a single "perfect course" to be somehow forced upon all of the one hundred departments of the region? Perish every part of that thought. They know

President Ralph Van Meter, Dean William L. Machmer, Dean Frank Prentice Rand (Liberal Arts), Dean George Marston (Engineering) have warmly endorsed the Insti-

tute.
"I am bringing the matter of the Institute to the attention of our deans of Business Administration and Engineering, also the man who heads Business English and his colleagues..."

HARRY WARSEL, FSU

"There is a close connection in my mind between the CCCC con-ference and the CEA Institute... ference and the CEA Institute...
Although it was not the sole emphasis, a sizeable place was given to 'What Employers Expect from College Courses in Composition and Communication'... I abould rather like to come...if only to set your group back on its ears with a 'Functional Approach to Communication'...For the particular emphasis you wish to give the Institute, I shall just jot down on a separate sheet some suggested topics and names."

STRANG LAWSON, Colgate

STRANG LAWSON, Colgate

"Your plans for an institute almost overwhelm me, but I am really delighted to see that I have stimulated so much activity... I will do anything I can to help out". CLYDE E. HENSON Michigan State

"I will send a copy of your letter to The University of Nebraska Deans of Arts and Sciences, Engineering, Business Administration, Law, Agriculture, Student Affairs (in charge of placements), and to the State Department of Instruction. I will prepare a brief statement about the Institute for the Bill Board, the weekly bulletin which goes to all members of the University faculty... You have stated the problem well..."

MAMIE J. MEREDITH Univ. of Nebraska

Further information from: Dr. Maxwell H. Goldberg, Director, 1952 CEA Institute, 11 Old Chapel, Univ. of Mass., Amherst, Mass. 1962 CEA Institute, 11 Old Chap Univ. of Mass., Amherst, Mass. that "a course is right only whit is richly rewarding to the sedents and the instructors of individual college". They susp that "rewarding everyone son times involves several gene courses given by a single depa ment." Yet, they believe, "the is such a thing as skill and art try in choosing titles as we man and remake courses, these que ties have partly atrophied becar of over-reliance upon stands survey anthologies." Getting, specting, using the ideas of the members, they are "trying to cover skill and artistry in planing." They believe that the sources of literature are bour less and that they can be used the college teacher of English.

THE CEA

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Editors Emeritus BURGES JOHNSON ROBERT T. FITZHUGH

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SO CLEAR IN HIS GREAT OFFICE

For the full story behind the history-making April CEA Critic supplement, we must go back at least two years—to that Yale least two years—to that Yale meeting of the NECEA which marked the beginning of a new era in CEA-MLA relations. In a formal session, William Riley formal session, William Riley Parker brought MLA greetings to the conference, and said, in part: "I am glad that CEA emphasizes one thing—teaching, while MLA stresses another—research. It is sheer folly to argue about which is the more important—teaching or research. Both are important research. or research. Both are important and mutually interdependent." He predicted that MLA would increase its usefulness as an overall agency of professional coordination and cooperation. Informally, Bill later added: "Let's not leave this on the level of general sentiments. What, specifically, can we do?"

CRITIC given excellent cooperation in arrangements for the national CEA meetings. So have local MLA committees in New York and Detroit. Too, CEA has worked Detroit. Too, CEA has worked Tormore of our field Tormore of our field Tormore of our field Tormore of Tormo MLA committees in New York and
Detroit. Too, CEA has worked
out very satisfactory relations
with two regional MLA groups—
RMMLA and SAMLA. In New
England and other areas, MLA
leaders have been generous in the time and effort they have devoted to CEA programs; and their coun-sel has been invaluable.

Bill Parker himself has given his moral support and his per-sonal endorsement to our CEA field trips on behalf of the dispossessed among our colleagues— our self-styled "Oakies in mortarboards"; and he has talked more than once of ways of providing us with more time and larger re-sources to extend our "admirable doings."

Conversely, it was a CEA na-tional president and former executive secretary-Bob Fitzhughwho served as press relations of-ficer to the 1950 annual MLA sessions; and a glance at the roster of national CEA officers and directors will reveal a number of names well-known for service in

MLA The sharp but essentially good-natured exchange between Ed Foster and Bill Parker in the editorial columns of The Critic (Jan. and Feb.) is indicative of the

CEA-MLA spirit of give-and-take now generally prevailing. Ed Fos-ter unhesitatingly functioned as traditional CEA gadfly. The Critic itself gladly gave space to Bill's witty retort, which likewise pulled no punches; and it printed Bill's citation of MLA addresses

urging scholarship to become vital, relevant, and available to the student and the general public.

And it was in *The CEA Critic* that Bill Parker's philosophic and statesmanlike declaration appeared: "MLA, long aware of the relations of scholarship to teaching, does intend to spell out the im-plications of such truths as it can grasp in this confused world where a primary interest in one thing

a primary interest in one thing is so often construed as lack of interest in anything else."

The combined PMLA reprint which is this month's Critic supplement is proof-positive of the earnestness of this intention. In themselves, the two reprinted additional control of the c dresses (Stanley Pargellis' "Dou-ble or Quits" and Warner G. Rice's "Our Ph.D.'s—Where Do They Go from Here?") close in on the problems, respectively, of making the fruits of scholarship at once more significant intrinsically and more attractively available to the layman, and of making graduate study more relevant to teaching.

In furnishing this reprint to all CEA members, Bill Parker has further demonstrated the strength of his protest against the fallacious notion that primary interest in one thing necessitates lack of interest in anything else; and the degree of his commitment to the both-and ideal of the humanist who is at once scholar and teach-

This Parker hath been so clear ranker this on the level of general sentiments. What, specifically, can we do?"
Since then, for CEA, the list of specifics has become sizeable. Bill Parker, John Fisher, and others of the MLA secretariat have of mind. In our primary interest of the MLA secretariat have on college teaching, we must not York 3, New York.)

trips to spot-check damage done by current dislocations, and to picture the outlook.

When we stated that English, history, and other humanistic and liberal studies had been hardest hit, the Times education editor registered. He looked at us sharp-ly and said (not his precise words): There's an idea for an article. We could write to the colleges and find out what's happening with the liberal arts

How much of a drop in student enrolment in the liberal arts, com-pared with that in other fields? What has been the effect on liberal arts teachers?

Weeks went by without any signs. Finally, when our patience was almost exhausted, it appeared—a front-page article, in the Sunday Times for March 9. It ran to about fifty-six inches and spilled over on to page 66. Its head: "Colleges Shift from the Arts as Students Call for Science."

The following passages caught

our eve:

"Some institutions report they will be forced to dismiss 20 to 30 per cent of their instructors. study of these figures indicates the most drastic cuts will be in the humanities and liberal arts...

"College authorities report that while they can retain all their chemistry, physics and applied science professors, they must reduce the rolls of full-time professors of English Carrier Lawrence of Engli suce the rolls of full-time professors of English, foreign languages, and the humanities. Indeed, the fields of foreign languages, English, and history seem to be hard-set hit? est hit."

In one of our own field reports Where Do We Go From ("Where Do We Go From Here?"), we had written, for the December Critic:

"In terms of displaced college "In terms of displaced college teachers, the humanities have been hardest hit, and, among them, English has had the worst of it... American higher education is living on the edge of a volcano, which may erupt at any moment, with devastating effects on student enrollment and teaching personnel. The humanities are in an especially exposed situation." especially exposed situation."

suffer a lack of interest in the research so strongly emphasized by MLA. Over the quickening stream of humane learning, a new bridge is being built between bridge is being built between teaching and research. It must have a firm foundation at each have a firm foundation at each end. By being members of CEA and MLA, many of us are helping to insure this twofold firm anchorage. MLA-CEA cooperation in the current Critic supplement will result, we hope, in many more MLA members among our CEA ranks. We thus strengthen both ends of our professional span.

(Address MLA membership applications to: William Riley Parker, executive secretary, Modern Language Association of America, 100 Washington Square East, New

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CEA REGIONAL

Greater NY CEA
Spring Meeting, Hunter College,
695 Park Ave., (at 69th St.,), NYC,
8 p.m. sharp (business meeting at

7:15). Friday, May 9.
Panel Discussion: "What Kind
of Freshman English Course Shall Teach?"

Participants: Aileen Traver Kitchen (Columbia, co-author with Charles C. Fries, "Preface on Grammar" in the Thorndike-Barn-hart Dictionary): "The Place of Modern Linguistics and Grammar". F. Johnson (NYU, Ass't Sec'y LA): "The Place of Literature". MT.A): Paul Kaczander (Assoc. Producer, Walt Framer Productions TV, "Strike It Rich", "The Big Pay-Off"; lecturer in communication,

evening division, Pace College): "The Place of Mass Media". Moderator: Maxwell H. Goldberg

April

Fifth Edition of

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Appleton-Century-Crofts 35 W. 32nd St., New York I, N. Y.

The Committee on the Language Program, ACLS, will present "New Fields of Employment for English Teachers". A short talk followed Teachers". A short talk followed by a question period. All college English teachers and condially in-

others interested are cordially in-

Executive Committee: Carl Lefevre, Pace College; Thomas O. Mabbott, Hunter; Haskell Block,

NECEA
Spring Meeting: May 3, Trinity
College, Hartford. Ralph Williams (Trinity), program chairman. Registration: 10:30-11:00,
Chem. Bidg. Lobby. Business session: 11:00-11:15, Pres. Norman
Holmes Pearson presiding. Greetings by Acting President Arthur
Hughes, of Trinity.

11:15-12:30 William Carlos Williams: Readings and comments. NECEA

liams: Readings and comments.

1:00 Lunch. 2:00-3:00 Campus
tour. 3:00-4:00 Group meetings,
first series. 4:00-5:00 Group

first series. 4:00-5:00 Group meetings, second series. 5:00 Group meetings, second series. 5:00 Tea. 6:30 Dinner, followed by program.

Ten group meetings in all. Among them: Teaching Homer—leader, Fred Gwynn (Carnegie Intern in General Education, Yale). The Teacher Reads Poetry Aloudleader, Thomas Parkinson (Wesleyan). Intercollegiate Cooperation in the Classroom e.g. in Teach-Henry James—leaders, Harry Moore (Babson), Seymour Betsky (Wellesley). Teaching Robert Frost—leader, William G. O'Donnell (Univ. of Mass.).

Frank Norvish and his Northeastern Recorder Sextet will present a program of Elizabethan music.

music.

Penn CEA

Spring Meeting: Sat., Apr. 19, Franklin & Marshall, Lancaster. All college English teachers are cordially invited to attend.

Program chairman (source of detailed information): Kenneth E. Longsdorf, Dept. of English, Frank-lin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa.

10:00 a.m. Registration (Fack-enthal Library, F and M). 10:30 a.m. Morning Session (Anspach Room, Fackenthal Li-brary). "A Word of Welcome", heary. "A Word of Welcome", Ray Adams (Head, Dept. of English, F and M). "What Are the Responsibilities of an English Department?", a panel discussion; participants: Ernest Earnest (Temple), Wayne C. Booth and John Ashmead (Haverford), Nelson Francis (F and M). 12:30 p.m. Luncheon Session (John Wright Room, Hotel Brunswick), N. Queen and Chestnut Sts.). Speaker: Ray Armstrong (Lehigh), "Can Undergraduates Evaluate Their Teachers?" Chairman: William Watt (Lafayette).

Their Teachers?" Chairman: William Watt (Lafayette).
2:00 p.m. Afternoon Session (Hotel Brunswick). Speaker: Stephen Whicher (Swarthmore), "Strike or Lock-Out? A Case History in the Problem of Non-Cummunication between Modern Poet and Modern Reader". Chairman: Perry Kendig (Muhlenberg).
3:15 p.m. Business Session. Election of officers for 1952-58.

Election of officers for 1952-53.
Registration Fee \$2.25 (\$1.75 for the luncheon, the rest for expenses), payable when registering at F and M.

Your visit with the Southeastern College English Association gave to all of us such a sense of unity with the national association and of kinship with the other regional groups that we feel a debt of gratitude to you and to the College English Association, which generously made your visit possible. I wish I could tell every present and future member of our regional group the importance of belonging to the national association. I see the problem this way. As members of a regional group we will find it difficult to achieve a sense of unity and continuity unless we

of unity and continuity unless we attend the regional meeting—our only unifying action. As the meeting place is moved from one area to another in our large regions whell find a meeting place.

meeting place is moved from one area to another in our large region we shall find a varying memberahip. I hope to meet always a number of the faithful, but I know that the problem of missing classes and traveling several hundred miles will mean that many of us will attend only when the meeting is within a hundred miles.

Because we have no publication to hold us together and because we have no relations with groups in our neighboring states, I think it vital to our health and growth that you through The Critic keep us aware of what our regional groups are doing and thinking.

In stressing the value of membership in CEA as a means of keeping us united as a regional group, the national meetings have been stimulating, and The Critic alive and as useful as anything a teacher can find. But I want you to know your importance to the regional groups and to engage in a campaign to make every regional member a national member as well.

Georgia Tech.

gistration; 10, Opportunities in Business and Industry for Non-Teaching Majors; 11, Freshman English and General Educ.; 12, Lunch, with after-topic, What Should MCEA Be Doing?; 1:30, Should MCEA Be Doing?; 1:30, Panel on After the Freshmen, What Then?, with a member on each of three divisions, The Unready (linguistic area in Program Letter sense), The Unwilling (spiritual values), and The Unrequired (teaching non-majors at various levels, such as extension work, maybe, and radio work.

CARSON HAMILTON

Middle Atlantic CEA

Spring Meeting, May 3, Univ. of Maryland, College Park. Pres. Carl Bode (Maryland). National CEA directors Thomas Marshall and Bruce Dearing are coopera-ting. Regional secretary - treas-urer, Joseph Hendren (Western Maryland).

Indiana CEA

Sixteenth annual conference: Hanover College, Fri.-Sat., May 16-17. Program chairman, Rich-ard Crowder (Purdue). (For program see March Critic, p. 8.)

Chicago CEA
Annual meeting, spring. Sam
Workman (Illinois Tech) setting up program.

ses) payable when registering at F and M.

Mich. CEA
Spring Meeting, Mich. State, E.
Lansing. Sat., May 10, with program planned as follows: 9:45, reNewby (Redlands U.) sec'y-treas.

Spring Meeting, Univ. of Rochester, April 5. George Nesbitt (Hamilton) elected president; William Beauchamp (Geneseo State Teachers College), vice president.

Latest Watticism

Reported by F. Leighton Peters (Cedar Crest). At a recent meeting of Lafayette alumni someone asked Bill Watt why undergraduates were compelled to take so many courses in English. Bill's reply: "In order to teach them a language other than their own."

Ideas for Writing

Readings for College Composition

Kenneth L. Knickerbocker University of Tennessee

Based on the theory that any student paper undisturbed by an idea need not have been written, this book is designed to stimulate thinking. Poetry as well as prose is treated as idea. The 108 provocative selections were chosen as the best examples of writing on the themes most often used in student papers and are student papers and are grouped under 28 specific ideas. The book is valuable for courses in public speaking and communications as well as for composition classes. 738 pages 1951 \$3.60

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Bulletin Board

CEA members who have not received questionnaires for the Nation of the National Roster in the Registration: The Humanities and the Social Sciences should write for copies to National Registration, American Council of Learned Societies, 1219 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C. This is the first time teachers

of English are entered upon a national roster of human resources. Now our field has been recognized as similar in importance to the status hitherto assigned to the sciences

In this connection it should be mentioned that CEA (The News Letter, March, 1943, p. 2, col. 4) was the solitary national organi-zation in the fields of the humanities and social sciences which pro-tested against the omission of



Poetry as Experience

NORMAN C. STAGEBERG and WALLACE L. ANDERSON Iowa State Teachers College

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University of Notre Dame Writs' Conference: June 23-28, with workshops in Poetry, Fiction and the Teaching of Creative Writing, the last an extremely popular in-novation last year among writers' conferences. The staff will con-sist of Karl Shapiro, Frank Luther Mott, Betty Finnin, John T. Fred-erick, Richard Sullivan, and John

Frederick Nims.
Louis Hasley, director, Box 9,
Notre Dame, Indiana.

New York State English Council.
Annual Conference, May 2-3.
Syracuse Hotel, Syracuse. Main
Speakers: Lennox Grey (Columbia
T.C.); Lou La Brant (NYU);
Harold B. Anderson (Chicago).
Luncheon speaker, Robert P. Tristram Coffin. College section English panels: Communication Skills
(Wright Thomas, Cortland State
Teachers College, chmn.); Training
High School English
Teachers
(William T. Beauchamp, Geneseo
State Teachers College, chmn.) New York State English Council. State Teachers College, chmn.) Strang Lawson reminds NYCEA members that such joint meetings provide one of the best ways for them to find out what is going on in high school English and why.

School of Modern Critical Stu-School of Modern Critical Studies. Univ. of Vt. Burlington, Je. 16-27. Staff: R. P. Blackmur, Malcolm Cowley, Elizabeth Drew, Arthur Mizener, Norman Holmes Pearson, Mark Schorer, Allen Tate. Coordinator: John W. Aldridge, who will furnish illustrated brochure and application blank on re-

..."Literary Pilgrimage to Europe", Texas Christian Univ. (Fort Worth), conducted by T. C. Crenshaw, Chairman, Dep't. of English. July 15-Sept. 13, 1952. All expense tour—61 days—\$1,015.00. Under management American American 25 N. Y. Travel Co. New York 36, N.

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ATTACKS ON LLOYD: "POISONOUS"

ing of composition, for he can do it almost as well as anyone, but when I see the rather poisonous attacks on him (p. 4 of the March CEA Critic), I want to get up and start slashing away with him. The regretful conclusion I must draw regretful conclusion I must draw from the letters from Athens, West Virginia and Alamosa, Colorado is that those places are so far off the beaten track that the books of Fries, Hall, and Pooley (to mention only three) have never penetrated those areas. How any one can ignore the recent studies in linguistics when they teach composition is beyond me.

It seems obvious that those who attack linguistics are making rather dangerous assumptions: rather dangerous assumptions: i.e., that "anything goes" and that linguisticians are against a dignified language. I think the first assumption comes from feel-ing that if "standards" are reing that if "standards" are re-laxed the language will disin-tegrate. But the only way lan-guage can disintegrate will be from lack of use, and as long as language is needed to communicate, neople will stick to reconst. language is needed to communicate, people will stick to reasonably uniform methods of expression. They will not stick to uniformity, however, just because a rule says they must; they will stick because they have to if they are to be understood.

Those who feel that relaxing "standards" will cause the lan-guage to lose dignity believe that, somehow, words have dignity in themselves. In speech, of course, this is not true because tone of voice does more than anything else to bring dignity to one's ex-pression. In writing it is almost pression. In writing it is almost the same. The language of a common laborer can be beautiful and dignified when, for example, he writes, under great stress, to the governor to pardon his son. In other words, the context of the situation is what makes written language dignified, even though the grammar, by absolute standards, may be deplorable.

It is true that Lloyd makes no

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I am perfectly willing to let Dr. friends by calling anyone who Lloyd defend the cause of linguis-goes by "standards" a snob or tics as an approach to the teach-slob, but his method of attack by friends by "standards" a snob or slob, but his method of attack by "an uncommonly facile pen" may drive many from the sanctuary of standards to the linguistic market place where some of us are trying to teach not standards but stu

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